

What's New in the MPDC

JULY 1, 2002

MPDC MOBILIZED FOR 4TH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

Check back with the MPDC Web site for updated July 4th street closure information, once the closures have been finalized.

The MPDC is mobilizing all sworn members of the Department to help ensure a safe and secure July 4th celebration for residents and visitors DC. By adjusting days off and restricting leave, the Department will have all available sworn members working on the Independence Day holiday, supported by key civilian personnel. MPDC officers will be assigned in

and around the National Mall to assist the US Park Police, the lead agency in the operation, with crowd and traffic control around the Capitol lawn concert and the fireworks display on the Mall. Additional officers will also be assigned to neighborhood patrols, with a special emphasis on communities expecting larger celebrations. The MPDC's Joint Operations Command Center, including the Closed Circuit TV system, will be activated to help monitor activities and ensure public safety. More information about Independence Day events in DC, including helpful links to Metro and other sites, can be found at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/fireworkshol.shtm

REMEMBER FIREWORKS SAFETY THIS JULY 4TH

With the fun and festivities of the July 4th holiday also come the dangers associated with people using illegal fireworks. Again this year, the MPDC is alerting the public that DC law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (such as cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) or launch after being lit (such as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzz-bombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items. For more detailed information on fireworks laws and safety tips, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/fireworks.shtm

The MPDC receives a large number of calls on and around the July 4th holiday. The Department offers these tips: for gunshots or fireworks that create an immediate public safety hazard, call 9-1-1 with a precise location and description of the incident; for fireworks and other reports that do not pose an immediate public safety threat, call the police non-emergency number, 3-1-1 (and please be patient if you are temporarily put on hold). For more information about using 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, go to

mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Food, fun and family safety will be themes on Saturday, June 29, beginning at 11:30 am, as Regional Operations Command-East and the Clergy-Police-Community Partnership host their second annual Safety Awareness Day in the parking lot of the Penn Branch Shopping Center, 3244 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. Details at mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)
- Chief Ramsey will take your phone calls and e-mails on Tuesday, July 2, from 10-11 am, during his monthly "Ask the Chief" program on WTOP radio. More info at www.wtop.com.

MPDC ANNOUNCES CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING

Just in time for the long July 4th weekend, the Metropolitan Police Department is teaming up with other law enforcement agencies in DC and five neighboring states in an intensive new campaign to crack down on impaired driving. Checkpoint Strike Force is an intensive alcohol/drug-impaired driver enforcement effort involving police in DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, which make up Region III of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Under this initiative, police will conduct weekly sobriety checkpoints throughout the remainder of 2002. The objectives of the campaign are to deter motorists from driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, as well as to identify and arrest those motorists who are impaired, but choose to get behind the wheel. Metropolitan Police will conduct weekly sobriety checkpoints throughout the rest of the year. Read the news release at:

For information on drunk driving laws and penalties in DC, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

SUMMER CURFEW HOURS BEGIN JULY 1

Additional information about DC's curfew law, including specific exemptions and alternative resources for young people, is available at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm

The MPDC reminds young people and their families that, beginning Monday, July 1, DC's teen curfew starts at 12:01 am, seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during school months. For the months of July and August only, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 12:01 am, and continues until 6 am, every day of the week. (During the other 10 months of the year, the curfew begins at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends.) Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities, such as work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. The law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. While MPDC's primary goal in enforcing the law is to reunite young people and their families, there are penalties for repeat violators. Read the full news release at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV